



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 23, 2009

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I am Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of Developmental Services. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **Senate Bill 1151, An Act Concerning Volunteer Programs Within State Agencies.**

This proposal eliminates a statutory requirement that a cost benefit analysis of volunteer services for the preceding year (based on guidelines established by the Council on Voluntary Action which no longer exists) be submitted to the Governor in each agency's annual report. It also eliminates the requirement that this information be submitted to the Council on Voluntary Services.

The Council on Voluntary Action no longer exists and our agency has been unable to locate the supposed guidelines established by this council in order to determine how to do the cost benefit analysis required by statute. It doesn't appear that agencies are currently providing this information, or that anyone is looking for it for any specific purpose. As an agency with an extensive network of volunteers, we believe the current requirement for a cost-benefit analysis is burdensome to our department and probably others as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1151. Please contact Christine Pollio, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066 if you have any questions.